

Fall 2015

BIOS 1002

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Bios 1002-002: A Freshman learning community on a Biography of Cancer

Wednesdays 12-12:50 PM in CC 202

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Schluchter 232 Biology Bldg. phone: 280-7194 e-mail: wschluch@uno.edu Office hours: Mon, 11-1 PM, Tues 1-3, Th 1-3

Undergraduate Supplemental Instructor: Jessica Tran: jtran11@my.uno.edu

Book: We are going to explore some themes from *The Emperor of All Maladies: a Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee.

BIOS 1002 Biology Freshman Learning Community 1 cr.

Prerequisites: Permission of Department. Open to Freshmen only.

An introduction to current topics in biology, designed to introduce freshmen to research in biology and enhance analytical skills and understanding of the discipline. Topics will vary each semester. Students are co-enrolled in a section of one or more other courses, depending on specific topic. May be repeated once. One hour of lecture per week.

Student Learning Outcomes for this class:

1. Read and dissect the content of scientific articles about cancer.
2. Summarize arguments presented in scientific articles and evaluate them using supporting data.
3. Analyze tables and graphs in scientific papers.
4. Summarize scientific information by constructing appropriate illustrative tables and graphs.
5. Communicate scientific information in oral and written form.
6. Effectively work as a member of a team to carry out scientific inquiry.
7. Develop skills to manage time, well-being, and personal resources.
8. Develop learning strategies to manage the University of New Orleans academic environment.
9. Gather information on campus resources that support academic growth and development as UNO community members.
10. Integrate information concerning career exploration, community service, wellness, and involvement to become a successful, well-rounded student.

Attendance: You must attend class every meeting. Missing class in this course seriously affects your ability to carry out assignments and puts an extra burden on other class members. Contact the instructor in advance if you know you will miss class. If you miss class unexpectedly, contact the instructor as soon as possible and provide a written excuse for the absence. It will not be possible to make up daily problems missed through unexcused absences.

Small group work: The class will be divided into small working groups of 3-4 students to facilitate detailed discussion and group problem solving. Each working group will be responsible for leading two discussions during the semester. In order to lead the discussion, each group will prepare 3-5 focus questions on the day's topic and present them to the class at the beginning of the discussion. Working groups will use Moodle to communicate outside of class as necessary.

Schedule of activities: Each class will begin with a 10-15 minute session on data analysis or interpretation relevant to the day's topic. The class will be given a table or figure to analyze from the

original literature, or a data set to summarize. Each class member will complete the assignment individually, and then compare notes with their small working group to come to a consensus, which is then presented to the class. The balance of each session is devoted to open discussion of the day's topic, led by the working group of the day.

Paper: Students will write a brief literature review paper on a topic of their choosing. Papers should include three or more references on the topic, and should be a minimum of 5 pages, double-spaced. Topics must be approved by the instructor.

Grading: Point distributions are as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	
Individual answers to weekly assignments	60%
Group-led discussions	10%
Participation in discussion	10%
Paper	20%

FINAL DROP DATE is October 14, 2015.

Course evaluation: This project is being funded by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. As part of grant expectations, an evaluation of project usefulness and impact will be conducted. All students are requested to participate in the project evaluation.

August 19: Intro, time management
August 26: Discussion 1 Cancer
Sept 2: Library Resources Presentation
Sept 9: Discussion 3
Sept 16: Discussion 4
Sept 23: Discussion 5
Sept 30: Discussion 6
Oct 7: Discussion 7
Oct 14: Research topics on paper
Oct 21: **Topics due on paper**
Oct 28: Discussion 8
Nov 4: Discussion 9
Nov 11: Discussion 10
Nov 18: Discussion 11
Nov 25: Papers due
Dec 2: Last day of class

Academic honesty and Disability Policies

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students who seek accommodations for disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services prior to discussing their individual needs for accommodation with their instructors as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.